

**Abstract 107**

**TITLE:** Designing, Evaluating and Expanding Programs to Rural and Suburban Sex Workers  
**AUTHORS:** Alice Tkachik MSWAC

**ISSUE:** Literature in print on programs to sex workers are programs and interventions specific to inner city issues.

**SETTING:** Community based, not-for-profit, peer led agency in the mid-west (suburban and rural) delivering HIV prevention and testing to sex-workers and IDU's.

**PROJECT:** A peer founded, governed, directed and staffed agency in the mid-west, Sisters and Brothers Helping Each Other; delivers HIV prevention based on the Harm Reduction model to sexworkers and IDU's. A spread sheet pre-funding evaluation tool is used to assess the need and the specific place services will be delivered. Client satisfaction and Behavior change surveys are done at the close of each funding year to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. By using science-based strategies, a cost effective, behavior changing program can be developed in resistant communities (suburban and rural) to traditionally invisible populations (IDU's and sex-workers).

**RESULTS:** A Program was established in a rural and suburban setting that can be duplicated and used in any suburban or rural area. The program was developed by peers; but can be duplicated by agencies who have only service delivery people as peers.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** By using science based program development in conjunction with life style experience of peers a cost effective, behavior changing HIV prevention programs can be implemented and continued successfully in a community acceptable way in a small budget agency. This no fail combination of facts provides service delivery and accountability to funders.

**PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Name:** Alice Tkachik MSWAC

**Address:** 418 N. Elm  
Gardner, IL 60424

**Telephone:** (815) 735-3927

**Fax:** (815) 237-0136